

ABSTRACT

A multimedia apparatus provides a graphical chat user interface on a display by receiving a broadcast video signal, receiving text communications from at least one other television viewer, displaying said

5 broadcast video signal in a first display area, determining the identity and the theme of the television programming, selecting a background image from an image database so that the background image matches the theme, inserting the background image as a background in a second display area and superimposing the text communications on top of the background image. The

10 graphical chat user interface is can display avatar and action images as well.